



# LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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## Daily Review of the Surian Press

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Friday, April 28, 1950

### Newspapers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al-Fayha', Al Ba'th, Al-Balad, Al-Kifah, Al-Masa', Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Insha', Al Alam, Al Hadara, Al Nidal, Al Shabab, Al Nazir, Al Islah, Al-Suri, Al-Jabal.

### DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

#### MINISTERIAL CRISIS

Al-Nasr and other papers: Mr. Akram al-Hawrani, the Minister of National Defense, submitted his resignation in writing at a Cabinet meeting held at the Presidency on Wednesday, April 26. Mr. Hawrani left the meeting before it was adjourned. When asked about the motives which induced him to resign, Mr. Hawrani said, "I agreed to participate in Premier 'Azm's Cabinet out of my desire to comply with the dictates of the national interest. This national interest now urges me to return to the ranks of the people and to perform my duty as a member of the Constituent Assembly. I am more than ever reassured as to the remarkable harmony and coordination in the ranks of the army, its complete devotion to its duty, and as to its preparedness and ability to defend our status and republican regime."

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Abd al-Baqi Nizam al-Din,   
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were being .....

(Pr. Dig. 80/2)

were being made to convince Mr. Hawrani to withdraw his resignation in the interest of the unity of ranks.

The Eastern News Agency reports that Mr. Hawrani submitted his resignation, following a heated debate between him and another colleague for reasons which could not be disclosed at present.

It is reported that Minister Kabbara was not present at his office yesterday, April 27, and that he had left for Zabadani. Minister Kabbara, however, denied that he had resigned or that he intended to do so. He added that he did not expect the resignation of Mr. Hawrani.

There are rumors in the capital which associate the Ministerial crisis with the declarations made recently by certain Ministers. The Prime Minister is reported to have asked local newspaper reporters to cease questioning the Ministers about subjects outside their specialization since such declarations would disturb the Cabinet and its policy.

The Eastern News Agency further reports that following the resignation of Mr. Hawrani, various attempts were made to remedy the situation. Yesterday evening, April 27, a meeting was held at the Presidency which was attended by the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Finance, National Economy, Agriculture and Public Works as well as by Mr. Rushdi al-Kikhya and Dr. Nazim al-Qudsi. An urgent meeting was held by the People's Party to discuss the new situation. The Republican Liberal Bloc also held a meeting which was attended by Mr. Akram al-Hawrani.

Political circles believe that the motives which induced Mr. Hawrani to resign date far backwards. Harmony has long been lacking between the members of the Cabinet and between the Cabinet and the Constituent Assembly. The Cabinet does not enjoy the full support of the Constituent Assembly since the Populist Ministers have been participating in the Cabinet in their personal capacity and since the other Ministers do not fully represent the other parliamentary groups in the Assembly. Political circles also believe that the resignation of Mr. Hawrani will be followed by the resignation of the entire Cabinet. There are indications that the future Cabinet will be a coalition Cabinet representing the People's Party, the Republican Liberal Bloc and independents.

The meeting held at the Presidency yesterday, April 27, did not result in anything positive. Consequently, consultations are expected to be resumed today, April 28.

Al-Nasr has learned from a reliable official source that the resignation of Mr. Hawrani was not the main subject of deliberation at the Cabinet's last meeting. Nevertheless it was agreed to urge Mr. Hawrani to withdraw his resignation. The same source added that the Cabinet discussed the necessity of creating coordination between the various parliamentary groups on one hand, and between the

Government and the Constituent Assembly on the other, in view of the fact that the draft constitution will shortly be debated by the Assembly.

#### PREMIER'S DECLARATION

Alif-Ba': At a press conference held yesterday, April 27, the Prime Minister, Mr. Khalid al-'Azm, declared that the Council of Ministers discussed at its meeting on April 26 the situation resulting from the annexation of the Arab part of Palestine to Jordan and the attitude which the Syrian delegation to the forthcoming meeting of the AL Political Committee will adopt towards this annexation. The Premier expressed his belief that no Arab state is expected to recognize the annexation, because the decisions adopted at the last meeting of the Political Committee were unanimously supported by the Arab states with the exception of Jordan. When asked as to what attitude the Syrian Government and the Arab League would adopt in case certain big powers recognized the annexation, the Premier said, "The Political Committee of the Arab League will discuss this question as well as the measures to be taken against Jordan. The Arab states have not intended to remove Jordan from the Arab part of Palestine, and the situation could have remained as it was prior to annexation." Asked whether annexation would affect the final settlement of the Palestine problem, the Premier said, "Had annexation been a temporary measure, there would really have been no need for it." Referring to the legality and validity of the Jordanian elections, the Prime Minister observed that there were no proofs or official documents indicating the validity of what happened during the elections. With regard to the declaration of Tawfiq Pasha Abul-Huda, the former Jordanian Premier, concerning the support of Egypt, Syria and Lebanon for the annexation, the Syrian Premier confirmed Dr. Qudsi's declaration on this subject (see Pr. Dig. 77/3). Premier 'Azm added that the Constituent Assembly will debate the subject of annexation at its next meeting on Saturday, April 29.

Referring to the declarations made recently by certain Ministers Premier 'Azm said, "When Ministers make declarations on subjects related to the affairs of their Ministries, their declarations are official, but declarations on subjects not related to the affairs of their Ministries are personal. Official statements are usually issued by the appropriate and responsible official sources."

Referring to Syro-Lebanese relations, the Premier said:

"In the political field there is complete agreement between Syria and Lebanon. In the economic field, Syria has not replied to the Lebanese note concerning the question of the 44 million Syrian pounds. Syria desires to conclude agreements with Lebanon for exchanging purely local products. The Customs Council is now preparing list of the commodities which are to be directly imported by Syria from abroad. Measures will be taken to curtail the import of luxuries and to encourage the import of necessary commodities".

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The Prime Minister was asked about the date of the departure of the Minister of National Economy to negotiate a trade agreement with Iraq. He was also asked whether or not Syria was negotiating a trade agreement with Russia. In reply the Premier asked the journalists to refer to the appropriate Ministries.

#### DAWALIBI AND SIBA'I

Al-Shabab observes in an article that Arab press, out of ignorance of the character of Dawalibi, has exaggerated the importance of his declarations. Minister Dawalibi would have been appreciated, had he been bold enough to make his declaration and defend his point of view in his official capacity.

All that Minister Dawalibi did, was to express only one aspect of the view which every Arab individual entertains. Dr. Dawalibi directed his attack exclusively to America, despite the fact that America, Britain and Russia are equally responsible for the Palestine tragedy. Russia may even be considered more responsible than America and Britain. We all know that the first shipments of arms to the Jews came from Russia and that Russia organized the Prague-Tel-Aviv airlift for supplying the Jews with arms, ammunition and experts. As a result of Russia's support for the Jews, America feared that the Jews would side with Russia. A dishonorable competition ensued between the two states for winning the favor of the Jews, which was finally won by America.

It should also be noted that Russia's recent withdrawal of its support for the internationalization of Jerusalem has disappointed all those who expected Dawalibi's declaration to have an effect on Russia's attitude towards the Arabs. There is no reason why Minister Dawalibi should continue his ineffective declarations, especially after his Government, his Party and even he himself have absolved themselves from the official nature of his declarations. This is not the first time in which Minister Dawalibi transgresses his prerogatives. When he was in Cairo, he made an attempt to negotiate military questions, an attempt which was ridiculed by the Cairo circles.

In another article the paper remarks that, as Minister Dawalibi represents the Russian face, Mr. Hani al-Siba'i represents the American face of the People's Party. The paper criticizes the distribution of American gifts and toys to students and the report that the Minister of Education has instructed Syrian schools to contact the United States Information Service for the purpose of showing American films to students. The paper adds that Minister Siba'i who ignored the Evacuation Day has ordered Syrian scouts to hold pompous processions in honor of Colonel Wilson. The paper remarks that such a policy is inconsistent with the principles of national education.

In conclusion the paper criticizes the Constituent Committee in which the Populists form a majority for having neglected Syria's right to Alexandretta and Cilicia.

VIOLATION BY TAPLINE

Alif Ba' reports that Geologist Muhammad Ali Sabri has reported to the Minister of Public Works Muhammad al-Mubarak on his inspection of the TAPline installations. The Minister requested Mr. Sabri to submit a written report on the violations committed by this Company.

PRESIDENT OF ASSEMBLY KIKHYA RESIGNING

Al Ba'th: It is reported that at the Council of Ministers' meeting the question of Mr. Rushdi al-Kikhya's resignation from the chairmanship of the Constituent Assembly to form a new Cabinet was discussed.

ARAB AFFAIRS

US & BRITAIN NEVER DISAGREE ON MIDDLE EAST:

Alif Ba': In a two-column front-page article columnist 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Qawwas argues that as a result of the Soviet threat to world peace, and communist expansion, Great Britain and the United States have come to close agreement on all international issues as well as issues relating to the Middle Eastern countries. "The United States and Great Britain will never disagree on Middle Eastern issues," the columnist concludes.

ANTI-JEWISH ARTICLE IN A SOVIET PAPER

Al Ba'th: A report datelined Moscow indicates that in an article the "New Time" magazine attacked the leaders of the Israeli MAPAI party which is today in power in Israel. The paper described these leaders as "insects creeping in front of Wall Street, and as fans which are turned by the weakest wind from Washington."

The paper which also describes the Zionists as the agents of the Anglo-American capitalism, believes that Zionism can be eradicated when "a national Arab struggle is organized against the Anglo-American capitalism in the Middle East".

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